

International Application No. PCT/EP2004/011130
Attorney Docket No. SCHW3004/JEK
Preliminary Amendment

effect in a foreign country which is different and unintended under U.S. practice (i.e., changing “consisting of” to “comprising”); (v) to remove or amend original claim language that could be regarded as alternative expressions that are acceptable under foreign patent practice but possibly subject to objection under U.S. practice, typically having a broadening or neutral effect in the amended claim; and/or (vi) to improve the clarity or meaning of the original language.

In the case of amendments effectively changing an original claim element expressed as a “means plus function” that could raise a presumption of claim expression under 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph to a structural expression or to an expression removing the presumption of a “means-plus-function” statement, it is not intended to narrow the claim so amended for purposes of patentability, but rather to place the claim in a form considered to be intended by the applicant from a foreign country where claim limitations described in terms of means-plus-function do not have the same effect as under U.S. practice. Thus, such amendments are intended to establish a full range of equivalents to the claim elements so amended under the U.S. doctrine of equivalents and beyond the range associated with “means-plus-function” expressions according to 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph, just as if the claim so amended was presented originally in its amended form.

All rights are reserved to the original disclosed and claimed subject matter and any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A value document, comprising in particular bank note, having a value document substrate and at least two different feature substances for checking the value document, wherein characterized in that the first feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the substrate of the value document, and the second feature substance is provided on applied to the value document substrate in the form of a coding.
2. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the first feature substance is distributed substantially uniformly within the volume of the value document substrate.
3. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein or 2, characterized in that a third feature substance different from the first feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the substrate of the value document.
4. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 3, wherein characterized in that the third feature substance is distributed substantially uniformly within the volume of the value document substrate.
5. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the first or and/or third feature substance is formed by at least one of a luminescent substance and [[or]] a mixture of luminescent substances.
6. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the second feature substance is formed by a luminescent substance or a mixture of luminescent substances.
7. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at

~~least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ at least one of the feature substances is formed on the basis of a host lattice doped with rare earth elements.

8. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that a fourth feature substance is applied to the value document, ~~preferably printed thereon, which is different from the second feature substance.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 8, wherein characterized in that the fourth feature substance is formed by a feature substance absorbent in the infrared spectral range, ~~preferably in that the fourth feature substance absorbs significantly in the spectral range above about 1.2 µm, especially preferably in the spectral range from about 1.5 µm to 2.2 µm.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 9, wherein characterized in that the fourth feature substance is substantially colorless or has only weak inherent color in the visible spectral range, ~~preferably in that the fourth feature substance does not yet have significant absorption even in the near infrared up to a wavelength of about 0.8 µm.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 8, wherein characterized in that the fourth feature substance is formed by a substance selected from the group consisting of a magnetic substance, an electroconductive substance and [[or]] a substance with an optically variable effect.

12. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 8, wherein at least one of claims 8 to 11, characterized in that the fourth feature substance is printed on the value document in the form of a coding.

13. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that at least one coding extends over a

~~predominant part of a surface of the value document, in particular over the substantially total surface of the value document.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that at least one coding, ~~in particular the coding formed by the second marking substance~~, is a bar code.
15. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that at least one coding represents information about the value document, the information being present in one of encrypted and [[or]] unencrypted form.
16. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that the value document substrate comprises a printed or unprinted cotton fiber paper.
17. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that the value document substrate comprises a ~~coated or printed or unprinted~~ plastic film that is one of coated, printed and unprinted.
18. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that the second feature substance is a printing printed on the value document substrate.
19. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is paper having the form of a moist paper web during its production, and at least one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that the second feature substance is applied to the moist paper web, in particular sprayed on, in the form of the coding during papermaking.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a value document according to claim 1, comprising the steps: any of claims 1 to 19, characterized in that the first feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the value document substrate, and the second feature substance is applied to the value document substrate in the form of a coding.

21. (Currently Amended) The production method according to claim 20, wherein characterized in that the second feature substance is printed on the value document substrate.

22. (Currently Amended) The production method according to claim 20, wherein the value document substrate is formed by a printed or unprinted cotton paper having the form of a moist paper web during its production, and characterized in that the second feature substance is sprayed onto the moist paper web during papermaking.

23. (Currently Amended) The production method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of claims 20 to 22, characterized in that a third feature substance is incorporated into the value document substrate.

24. (Currently Amended) The production method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of claims 20 to 23, characterized in that a fourth feature substance is applied to the value document substrate, in particular printed thereon.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for checking or processing a value document according to claim 1, comprising the steps: checking any of claims 1 to 19, wherein the authenticity of the value document is checked and carrying out a value recognition of the document carried out by using at least one characteristic property of at least one of the first and and/or second feature substance for checking the authenticity of the value document, and the coding formed by the second feature substance for at least one of value recognition[[],] and currency recognition, etc., of

the value document.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein characterized in that at least one characteristic property of the first feature substance is used for checking the authenticity of the value document by a user of a first user group.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein or 26, characterized ~~in that~~ at least one characteristic property of the second feature substance is used for checking the authenticity of the value document by a user of a second user group.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein at least one of claims 25 to 27, characterized ~~in that~~ at least one characteristic property of at least one of the first and and/or third feature substance is used for checking the authenticity of the value document.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein any of claims 25 to 28, characterized ~~in that~~ the second feature substance is formed by a luminescent substance, and the second feature substance is irradiated with radiation from its excitation range, the emission is determined at at least one wavelength from the emission range of the second feature substance, and the check of at least one of authenticity and and/or the value recognition is carried out on the basis of the determined emission.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein characterized in that the second feature substance is irradiated with at least one of visible and and/or infrared radiation, and its emission is determined in the infrared spectral range.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein or 30, characterized ~~in that~~ the irradiation is performed with a light-emitting diode or laser

diode.

32. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the fourth feature substance is printed on the value document.

33. (New) The value document according to claim 9, wherein the infrared spectral range is selected from the group consisting of above about 1.2 μm ; and from about 1.5 μm to 2.2 μm .

34. (New) The value document according to claim 10, wherein the fourth feature substance does not have significant absorption even in the near infrared up to a wavelength of about 0.8 μm .

35. (New) The value document according to claim 13, wherein said at least one coding extends over a substantially total surface of the value document.

36. (New) The value document according to claim 14, wherein said second marking substance forms said bar code.

37. (New) The production method according to claim 24, wherein the fourth feature substance is applied to the value document by printing thereon.